

Kindly replace the paragraph beginning at page 48, line 1, with the following:

A2 -- The fixture portion 341 of the valve 3 has sunk into the relief space 224 together with the part of the flange 35 near the fixture portion 341. Since such substantial deformation is enabled by the provision of the relief space 224, the tube 4 can be engaged even if the length (FIG. 14, L_2) of the tube 4 (inner 45) to be inserted in the connector were different, for example, even if the L_2 were longer. Accordingly, the connector 1 has enabled engagement of the tubes 4 having different insertion length. --

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly amend Claims 8, 9, 10, 12, 13 and 16, follows.

A3 8. (Amended) A connector according to claim 6 wherein a space is defined between said base and said housing to allow said dilatation of said base.

9. (Amended) A connector according to claim 1 wherein said valve restores its original shape when said tube is disengaged from said connection port.

10. (Amended) A connector according to claim 1 wherein said slit has a size such that penetration of said tube through said slit opening of said slit is not allowed.

12. (Amended) A connector according to claim 1 wherein at least a part of said base is tapered such that outer diameter or inner diameter increases with increase in the distance from said valve portion.

13. (Amended) A connector according to claim 1 wherein said valve portion has a projection and/or a recess on the surface that becomes in contact with distal and surface of said tube.

16. (Amended) A connector according to claim 1 wherein said valve portion has a projection on the surface that does not become in contact with said distal and surface of the tube.